



Time to Flee

A human rights education resource on refugees and
asylum

In your groups, discuss what these words mean:

Persecution

Refugee

Asylum Seeker

Persecution is.....

“Subjecting a person to prolonged hostility and ill-treatment because of who they are or what they think.” Amnesty International

A Refugee is.....

“Someone who has left their own country because they are afraid of being persecuted (abused or mistreated) because of their religion, political beliefs or social behavior. When you are given refugee status by another country you are allowed to live in that country, safe from harm.

Many people consider themselves refugees, and are considered so by others, whether or not they have been officially recognized by the government of the country in which they are seeking asylum.” Amnesty International

An Asylum Seeker is.....

“A person who has come to another country asking the government to stay here as a refugee. They are waiting to hear whether they are allowed to stay or not.” Amnesty International

How many refugees are.....

In the world....

How many refugees are.....

In the world.... Approximately 21.3 million

How many refugees are.....

In the world.... Approximately 21.3 million (UNHCR, 2015)

Women and children....

How many refugees are.....

In the world.... Approximately 21.3 million

Women and children....over half of all refugees (UNHCR, 2015)

Role Play Activity

Characters:

Dad: a journalist

Mom: a mechanic

(mom and dad have an old car)

Children: newborn, a boy and girl in school

Granny: in a wheelchair and doesn't leave the house because she had a stroke

Uncle: very religious; was a political prisoner; walks with a bad limp

2 Months ago...

A military coup took place.

There was a lot of gunfire in the streets. Tanks and armored cars were everywhere. A lot of people were killed and others were arrested.

A curfew has been imposed and everyone now must stay indoors after dark.

The military rulers have taken over the TV and radio.

It is very hard to know what is really going on.

1 Month Ago.....

Dad was told that the new military rulers had arrested a lot of people.

Others, including religious figures, politicians, writers and trade unionists, have simply 'gone missing'. Nobody knows where they are.

Two Weeks Ago.....

An article appeared in the local newspaper (which supported the military coup).

Underneath the drawing of a skull and coffin was a long list of people in the town that it said were enemies of the state.

Both Dad's and Uncle's names are on the list.

The article was signed "Friends of the Motherland".

Last week...

Soldiers came to the school looking for the lunch lady's husband.

He was not there.

The soldiers took the lunch lady and her children away.

4 Days Ago

It was announced that trade unions are banned by the new government.

3 Days Ago

A note was pushed through the door of the family home.



2 Days Ago.....

Someone called Uncle and told him he'd better get out, because some people were planning on setting the house on fire.

Yesterday.....

Some children at the school said that snatch squads of soldiers had been searching the streets in a nearby neighborhood and arresting people, including some members of Dad's trade union.

Today.....

There has been the sound of gunfire in the main square and trucks full of soldiers have been arriving in front of the Town Hall.

There are roadblocks stopping all cars.

All trains are being searched.

The family meets together to decide what they're going to do.

The journey by car would only be an hour, but there are roadblocks everywhere.

The journey on foot would be a week through desert and forest.

The soldiers are searching on your street....you
have 3 minutes to decide!

1. Who is going and who stays behind?
2. How are you leaving?
3. What are you taking with you?
4. Your paper is your backpack...everything you write down will make it out of the house.

Congratulations!
You have all reached the border alive!